

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fireplace comprising:
 - (a) a firebox;
 - (b) a front wall fastened to the firebox wherein the firebox and front wall define a combustion chamber; and
 - (c) a shelf pivotally mounted to the front wall about a horizontal axis.
2. The fireplace according to claim 1 wherein the shelf is configured to pivot between a closed position, wherein the shelf is positioned adjacent to the front wall in a substantially parallel plane and an open position, wherein the shelf is positioned substantially perpendicular to the front wall.
3. The fireplace according to claim 2 wherein the combustion chamber remains enclosed by the front wall and firebox when the shelf is in an open position.
4. The fireplace according to claim 1 further comprising doors pivotally mounted to the front wall about a vertical axis.
5. The fireplace according to claim 1 further comprising doors pivotally mounted to the firebox about a vertical axis.
6. The fireplace according to claim 1 wherein the front wall is fastened to the firebox to form a substantially airtight seal.